

Customer No. 24498
Internal Docket No. PF040026
Date of Office Action: 05/11/2010

Remarks

Claims 5-12 are pending. Claims 1 - 4 have been cancelled. There are no amendments to the claims. Claim 5 has been amended for clarity. No new matter is believed to be added by the amendment.

Claims 5 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,829,487 (hereinafter Eiden)

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Eiden pertains to a communication group of wireless devices communicating in a radio network (col. 2, lines 18 – 21). A user of a communication device applies for membership into the communication group from each group member (col. 2, lines 22 – 25). Each member of the communication group replies to the applicant as to whether or not that member accepts the applicant's admission into the communication group (col. 2, lines 25 – 28). After all group members have replied to the applicant, the applicant will receive information on whether or not his membership has been accepted (col. 2, lines 27 – 29).

By contrast, the claimed invention provides for a user to select one particular device, referred to as the user chosen device, as the device to authorize new devices into the community. Any device in the community can receive requests from applicants to join the community. The user chosen device will request from the other devices in the community to forward to it any requests they may have received to join the community. Devices receiving such requests will then forward the requests to the user chosen device. However, the user chosen device authorizes the applicant's insertion into the community and not each device in the community.

For example, assume a home network has a gateway connected to a personal computer (PC). The PC is connected to the gateway through a wired connection. The PC does not have any wireless connection. A laptop is connected to the gateway through a wireless connection. A user selects the PC as the user chosen device to

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authorize new devices into the community. The laptop requests insertion into the community to the gateway. The gateway forwards the insertion request to the PC. The PC authorizes the insertion request which is forwarded to the laptop through the gateway. According to the claimed invention the PC, which is the user chosen device, receives the forwarded request and ultimately approves the laptop's insertion request.

Eiden does not recite "forwarding, by each device of the community which receives a request from the user chosen device, the at least one stored insertion request to said user chosen device"

The Examiner cites Eiden, col. 5, lines 10 – 13, col. 6, lines 22 – 59 and figure 2 as reciting this step. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The cited section merely indicates that a member can receive a membership request from an applicant. The member decides whether or not to accept or reject the request. The member's decision is then sent to the applicant.

By contrast, the user chosen device in the claimed invention is the device that authorizes the insertion of the new device. Each device can receive an insertion request to join the community. Each device of the community that receives a request from the user chosen device then forwards these insertion requests to the user chosen device. Clearly, this forwarding step is not recited in Eiden.

Eiden does not recite the user chosen device as set forth in the selecting and performing steps: "selecting, by a user, a user chosen device from one of the community of devices for authorizing insertion of a new device into the community"; and "performing, by the user chosen device, at least one user action for authorizing the insertion of the new device into the community."

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The Examiner cites column 5, lines 1 – 33 and figure 2 as reciting the *selecting* step of the claimed invention and cites column 6, lines 22 – 58 and figure 2 as reciting the *performing* step. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The cited sections in Eiden recite that an applicant makes a membership request to each member in the group. Each member in the group decides whether or not to accept or reject the applicant's membership request. The group's decision can be either unanimous or based on a majority of votes.

By contrast, in the claimed invention, the user chosen device authorizes insertion of a new device into the community. The user chosen device is selected by a user of one of the devices in the community (i.e., the selecting step). In the performing step, the user chosen device, performs a user action for authorizing the insertion of the new device into the community. The other devices in the community individually do not authorize the insertion or collectively vote on the insertion. Clearly, the selecting and performing steps of claim 5 are not recited in Eiden.

Accordingly, claim 5 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Eiden and as such, are patentable over Eiden. The remaining independent claims, and the claims that depend on them, recite the above-referenced features and are also not anticipated by Eiden and are believed to be patentable over Eiden for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 5.

Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has been traversed and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to these claims.


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Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Please charge any required additional fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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